

FOR: TOBACCO INDUSTRY RESEARCH COMMITTEE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (March 28, 1960)

New York, N.Y. -- Timothy V. Hartnett, chairman of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, issued here today the following statement concerning news stories from Louisville, Ky., quoting Dr. Alton Ochsner's criticism of the tobacco industry:

"With this renewed attack on tobacco under the auspices of the American Cancer Society, the position of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee should be made clear.

"This position is and has been that much more knowledge about cancer, and especially lung cancer, is necessary before positive conclusions about the cause or causes can be established. This position is shared by outstanding scientists here and abroad.

"We do not think that the present campaign of repeating the anti-smoking theories of the extremists will ever constitute proof of the charges they make against smoking.

"In keeping with our position, we do not believe it is fair to the general public or those connected with the tobacco industry -- from grower to retailers -- to permit extreme and unproved charges to go unchallenged. Many doctors and scientists simply do not agree that the lung cancer question has been settled.

"For example, the Journal of the American Medical Association just recently stated in an editorial that there is not 'sufficient evidence to warrant the assumption of an all-or none authoritative position' in regard to the smoking theory.

"We have frankly accepted a responsibility for financing independent scientific research into health problems, including lung cancer, in an effort to get needed facts and evidence. The conduct and results of the research are reported with complete freedom by the scientists who receive grants-in-aid from a Scientific Advisory Board of 10 recognized authorities in scientific and medical research."